CLAIMS

We claim:

1   1.   A method for run time ordering open tasks, comprising
2   the steps of:

3   providing for each open task a task tab sequentially
4   ordered in a status line; and

5   responsive to a user drag and drop of a first task tab,
6   reordering the sequential order of said status line.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

2   providing a linked list of tab elements, with a tab
3   element associated with each said task tab and task
4   content; and

5   said reordering step comprising the step of adjusting
6   back pointers and next pointers of said tab element to
7   reposition said first tab element from a drag position

8   to a drop position within said linked list.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

2   displaying in an application content window task

3   content corresponding to a current selected task tab.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

2   responsive to user selection of a new task tab of

3   displaying task content corresponding to said new task

4   tab in said application content window.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

2   responsive to user selection of a first key

3   combination, displaying task content corresponding to a

4   next sequential task in said application content

5   window.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:

2   responsive to user selection of a second key

3   combination, displaying task content corresponding to a

4   previous sequential task in said application content

5   window.

1   7.   The method of claim 2, said task being a document.

1   8.   The method of claim 2, said task being a web page.

1   9.   The method of claim 2, said task being a database.

1   10.   The method of claim 2, said task being a spread sheet.

1   11.   System for run time ordering open tasks, comprising:

2   a status bar;

3   a plurality of task tabs presented in said status bar
4   in sequential order, with a task tab for each open task
5   within an open application;

6   a content window for displaying task content associated
7   with a current selected task tab;

8   a linked list of tab elements, with a tab element
9   associated with each said task tab and task content;
10   and

11 a task tab order component responsive to user drag and

12 drop of a given task tab for moving said given task tab

13 from a drag position in said status bar to a drop

14 position in said status bar.

1 12. The system of claim 11, further comprising:

2 a mouse device operable by a user for selecting a

3 current task tab.

1 13. The system of claim 12, further comprising:

2 a first key operable by said user for incrementing said

3 selected task tab to a next tab in said sequential

4 order; and

5 a second key operable by said user for decrementing

6 said selected task tab to a previous tab in said

7 sequential order.

1 14. The system of claim 11, said task tab order component

2 being operable to reorder said linked list of tab

3 elements responsive to said user drag and drop.

1 15. A program storage device readable by a machine,

2   tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a

3   machine to perform method steps for run time ordering open

4   tasks, said method steps comprising:

5   providing for each open task a task tab sequentially

6   ordered in a status line; and

7   responsive to a user drag and drop of a first task tab,

8   reordering the sequential order of said status line.

1   16.   The program storage device of claim 15, said method

2   steps further comprising the steps of:

3   providing a linked list of tab elements, with a tab

4   element associated with each said task tab and task

5   content; and

6   said reordering step comprising the step of adjusting

7   back pointers and next pointers of said tab element to

8   reposition said first tab element from a drag position

9   to a drop position within said linked list.

1   17.   The program storage device of claim 16, said method

2   steps further comprising the step of:

3   displaying in an application content window task

4   content corresponding to a current selected task tab.

1 18. The program storage device of claim 17, said method

2   steps further comprising the step of:

3   responsive to user selection of a new task tab of

4   displaying task content corresponding to said new task

5   tab in said application content window.

1 19. The program storage device of claim 18, said method

2   steps further comprising the step of:

3   responsive to user selection of a first key

4   combination, displaying task content corresponding to a

5   next sequential task in said application content

6   window.

1 20. The program storage device of claim 19, said method

2   steps further comprising the step of:

3   responsive to user selection of a second key

4   combination, displaying task content corresponding to a

5   previous sequential task in said application content

6   window.

1   21.   The program storage device of claim 16, said task being

2   a document.

1   22.   The program storage device of claim 16, said task being

2   a web page.

1   23.   The program storage device of claim 16, said task being

2   a data base.

1   24.   The program storage device of claim 16, said task being

2   a spread sheet.

1   25.   A computer program product or computer program element

2   for ordering open tasks according to method steps

3   comprising:

4   providing for each open task a task tab sequentially

5   ordered in a status line; and

6   responsive to a user drag and drop of a first task tab,

7   reordering the sequential order of said status line.